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* [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] *
* [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] *
* [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] *

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[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED] PAGE 001
[REDACTED] 181220Z FEB 95 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: THE 316TH MI BATTALION
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

TEXT:

1. [REDACTED]

2. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] INFORMATION WAS GLEANED
FROM NUMEROUS FILES, AND ALTHOUGH HQS WAS UNABLE TO FIND A
DEFINITIVE STUDY ON THE BATTALION, HOPE THE FOLLOWING HELPS.

3. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Approved for Release
Date SEPT 1998

H4-4

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* [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] *
* [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] *
* [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] *

[REDACTED] DURING THE EARLY 1980S FUSEP HAD THREE
DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS UNDER ITS CONTROL: (A) THE NATIONAL
DIRECTORATE OF INVESTIGATION (DNI); (B) [REDACTED]
SPECIAL UNIT WHICH PROVIDED TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO THE ARMS
INTERDICTION PROGRAM (MATERIAL FROM NICARAGUA PASSED THROUGH
HONDURAS TO GUERRILLAS IN EL SALVADOR), [REDACTED] AND (C)
THE REGULAR NATIONAL POLICE UNITS STATIONED THROUGHOUT THE
COUNTRY. IN ADDITION, [REDACTED] THE DNI MAINTAINED A
SECRET UNIT - THE HONDURAN ANTI-COMMUNIST LIBERATION ARMY
(ELACH), A RIGHTIST PARAMILITARY ORGANIZATION WHICH CONDUCTED
OPERATIONS AGAINST HONDURAN LEFTISTS. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], DURING THE PERIOD ELACH
OPERATED (1980-1984), ELACH'S OPERATIONS INCLUDED SURVEILLANCE,
KIDNAPPINGS, INTERROGATION UNDER DURESS, AND EXECUTION OF
PRISONERS WHO WERE HONDURAN REVOLUTIONARIES. ELACH REPORTEDLY
MAINTAINED AN INFORMAL LIAISON WITH MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL UNIT
[REDACTED]
EXPRESSED STRONG CONCERN TO THE HONDURAN GOVERNMENT AND FUSEP IN
PARTICULAR OVER THE USE OF REPRESSIVE MEASURES BY THE SECURITY
SERVICES. IN AN EFFORT TO CONVINCE FUSEP THAT ABUSIVE TECHNIQUES
SHOULD NOT BE USED AND DID NOT HAVE TO BE USED IN INTERROGATING A
DETAINEE, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
REPEATEDLY INSTRUCTED AGAINST THE USE OF PHYSICAL ABUSE OR
TORTURE.

4. IN APRIL 1983, BASED ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE
"STRATEGIC MILITARY SEMINAR" BETWEEN THE HONDURAN AND THE U.S.
MILITARY, THE HONDURAN ARMED FORCES RESOLVED TO CONVERT THE
SPECIAL UNIT OF FUSEP INTO A MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, RATHER THAN A
POLICE UNIT, AND TO PLACE IT UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE
MILITARY INTEL DIVISION OF THE HONDURAN ARMED FORCES GENERAL
STAFF. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] THE PURPOSE OF THIS CHANGE WAS TO IMPROVE COORDINATION AND
CONTROL, TO MAKE AVAILABLE GREATER PERSONNEL RESOURCES, AND TO

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* [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] *
* [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] *
* [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] *

INTEGRATE THE INTEL PRODUCTION. IN EARLY 1984 THE SPECIAL UNIT WAS PLACED UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE MILITARY INTEL DIVISION AND RENAMED THE 316TH BATTALION [REDACTED], WHERE IT CONTINUED TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO THE ARMS INTERDICTION PROGRAM. WITH THE TRANSFER OF THE SPECIAL UNIT FROM FUSEP TO MILITARY INTEL,

[REDACTED]

5. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. IN 1980 THE SPECIAL UNIT WAS LOCATED INSIDE THE FUSEP COMPOUND, BUT SOMETIME IN 1981 OR 1982 IT MOVED TO ANOTHER SITE ABOUT A MILE FROM THE COMPOUND, A MOVE DETERMINED NECESSARY BY THE GROWTH IN THE UNIT AND THE NEED TO AFFORD A MEASURE OF SECURITY TO ITS PERSONNEL NOT POSSIBLE INSIDE THE POLICE COMPOUND. WHEN COLONEL ALVAREZ WAS TRANSFERRED FROM FUSEP AND APPOINTED AS CHIEF OF THE HONDURAN ARMED FORCES, HE WAS REPLACED (1981-82 TIME FRAME) BY COLONEL DANIEL ((BALI)) CASTILLO. WHILE BALI HAD NOMINAL CONTROL OVER THE SPECIAL UNIT, HERNANDEZ ALSO REPORTED TO AND WORKED INCREASINGLY CLOSELY WITH ALVAREZ IN HIS NEW COMMAND. IN 1982 CAPTAIN HERNANDEZ WAS TRANSFERRED OVERSEAS TO ARGENTINA AND REPLACED BY A HONDURAN ARMY OFFICER, MAJOR LUIS ALONSO ((PADILLA)) DIAZ. UNDER BOTH HERNANDEZ AND PADILLA, THE SPECIAL UNIT WAS RESPONSIVE FIRST TO ALVAREZ AND SECOND TO BALI. IT SEEMED NATURAL THAT ALVAREZ WOULD

[REDACTED]

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* [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] *
* [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] *
* [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] *

HAVE MAINTAINED A KEEN INTEREST IN THE WELL BEING OF A UNIT WHICH HE HAD HELPED TO GROW FROM ITS INCEPTION. [REDACTED] PERSONALITIES BEING WHAT THEY WERE IN HONDURAS, ALVAREZ WOULD HAVE WANTED TO ENSURE HIS BEING ON TOP OF WHAT HAD BECOME AN EFFECTIVE UNIT, WHICH BY THE MIDDLE OF 1983 HAD AN INDETERMINATE MIX OF MILITARY AND POLICE PERSONNEL. ANOTHER POINT WORTH REMEMBERING WAS THAT FUSEP, WHILE A CIVILIAN POLICE ORGANIZATION, WAS DURING THIS TIME FRAME UNDER THE CONTROL OF A MILITARY OFFICER.) WHETHER OR NOT THE SPECIAL UNIT WAS UNDER FUSEP CONTROL WHILE ALVAREZ WAS FUSEP COMMANDER, OR WAS SUBORDINATED IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER TO ALVAREZ WHILE CINC OF ARMED FORCES, THE MISSION OF THE UNIT WAS ESSENTIALLY THE SAME, NAMELY TO COMBAT BOTH DOMESTIC AND REGIONAL SUBVERSIVE MOVEMENTS OPERATING IN AND THROUGH HONDURAS. THIS INCLUDED PENETRATING VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE HONDURAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCH), THE CENTRAL AMERICAN REGIONAL TROTSKYITE PARTY (PRTCH), AND THE POPULAR REVOLUTIONARY FORCES-LORENZO ZELAYA (FPR-LZ) MARXIST TERRORIST ORGANIZATION.

6. FROM JANUARY UNTIL APRIL 1984, LT. COL. LUIS ALONSO ((DISCUA)) ELVIR, INTEL CHIEF OF THE HONDURAN ARMY GENERAL STAFF, ASSUMED COMMAND OF THE 316TH BATTALION, REPLACING PADILLA. THIS CHANGE IN COMMAND WAS CARRIED OUT BECAUSE OF THE UNIT'S POOR PERFORMANCE DURING THE COMMAND OF PADILLA. [REDACTED]

IN APRIL 1984 MAJOR INOCENTE ((BORJAS)) SANTOS BECAME CHIEF OF THE BATTALION AND STAYED WITH THE UNIT UNTIL AT LEAST AUGUST 1986. BORJAS' SUCCESSOR WAS LT. COL. LUIS ALONSO ((VILLATORO)) VILLEDA WHO HEADED THE UNIT UNTIL IT WAS DISBANDED IN 1987. HOWEVER, VILLATORO STAYED WITH THE NEW UNIT UNTIL HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE 7TH BATTALION SOMETIME IN EARLY 1989.

7. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] SOON AFTER THE REMOVAL OF ALVAREZ AS COMMANDER OF THE HONDURAN ARMED FORCES IN [REDACTED]

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* [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] *
* [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] *
* [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] *
* [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] *

MARCH 84, LEFTIST PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN HONDURAS (CODEH) RAMON ((CUSTODIO)) LOPEZ MET WITH HIGH-LEVEL MILITARY LEADERS AND TOLD THEM THAT THE 316TH MILITARY INTEL BATTALION WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DISAPPEARANCE OF ALMOST ALL PERSONS ON THE CODEH LIST OF MISSING PERSONS. THE MILITARY OFFICERS INVESTIGATED CUSTODIO'S ALLEGATIONS BUT ARGUED THAT THEY FOUND NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THEM.

8. IN SEPTEMBER 1987, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE HONDURAN ARMED FORCES, GENERAL HUMBERTO ((REGALADO)) SIGNED AN ORDER DISSOLVING THE 316TH BATTALION. THAT SAME ORDER CREATED THE "COUNTERINTELLIGENCE (CI) DIVISION" OF THE HONDURAN ARMED FORCES. THE CI DIVISION WAS PLACED UNDER THE HONDURAN ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF FOR INTELLIGENCE (C-2). ALTHOUGH THE CI DIVISION RETAINED SOME OF THE 316TH MILITARY INTEL BATTALION'S FUNCTIONS AND PERSONNEL

[REDACTED], A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF THE UNIT'S PERSONNEL, SUB-UNITS AND FUNCTIONS, SUCH AS ANALYSIS CENTERS, WERE TRANSFERRED TO OTHER SECTIONS WITHIN THE C-2.

9. JAMES LEMONYE, A REPORTER FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE, WAS THE AUTHOR OF NUMEROUS ARTICLES ON THE SUBJECT OF HONDURAN DEATH SQUAD ACTIVITIES. APPROXIMATELY EVERY SIX MONTHS HE PUBLISHED A NEW ARTICLE WITH A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT TWIST, BUT HIS ARTICLES GENERALLY CONTAINED THE SAME BASIC INFORMATION. BASED ON THESE ARTICLES AND OTHERS WRITTEN ON THE SAME SUBJECT, [REDACTED] WAS ASKED TO ANSWER QUERIES FROM CONGRESS ABOUT [REDACTED] INVOLVEMENT IN, AND KNOWLEDGE OF, ALLEGED HONDURAN DEATH SQUADS DURING THE 1980S. MANY OF THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE 316TH SEEM TO HAVE COME FROM ONE MAN, FLORENCIO ((CABALLERO)) BONILLA (AKA FLORENTINO ((CARBAYO)) BUSTILLO), WHO CLAIMED THE BATTALION WAS TRAINED AND ADVISED ON INTEL MATTERS BY AMERICANS. CABALLERO CLAIMED TO HAVE SERVED IN MILITARY INTEL UNITS FROM 1979 UNTIL 1984 AND TO HAVE BEEN TRAINED BY AMERICANS AND OTHER FOREIGNERS IN INTERROGATION TECHNIQUES. ACCORDING TO CABALLERO, THE AMERICAN ADVISERS DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN INTERROGATIONS OR TORTURE, BUT DID ADVISE ON WHOM TO PUT UNDER SURVEILLANCE AND

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* [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] *
* [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] *
* [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] *

WHAT QUESTIONS TO ASK THOSE WHO HAD BEEN DETAINED. CABALLERO SAID THE AMERICAN ADVISERS TRIED TO PERSUADE THE HONDURANS TO USE PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURES, RATHER THAN PHYSICAL TORTURE, BUT HONDURAN COMMANDERS PREFERRED TO CONTINUE USING VIOLENT METHODS. CABALLERO CLAIMED THE 316TH KIDNAPPED SUSPECTED LEFTISTS, TOOK THEM TO SECRET DETENTION CENTERS, TORTURED THEM, AND EVENTUALLY KILLED MOST OF THEM. [REDACTED] INDICATE THAT CABALLERO JOINED THE HONDURAN ARMED FORCES IN 1977, AND IN 1979 OR 80 WAS ASSIGNED TO A MILITARY INTEL UNIT. IN 1984 HE DESERTED FROM THE MILITARY, TRAVELED TO MEXICO AND SOUGHT ASYLUM IN CANADA. [REDACTED] HAD NO EVIDENCE TO SUBSTANTIATE CABALLERO'S CLAIMS THAT HE PARTICIPATED IN DEATH SQUAD ACTIVITIES OR IF HE EVEN ACTUALLY SERVED AS AN INTERROGATOR. [REDACTED]

10. THE OTHER PERSON ALLEGING HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES WAS INES CONSUELO ((MURILLO)) SCHWADER, WHO WAS A MEMBER OF THE FPR-LZ, A GROUP THAT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR SEVERAL BOMBINGS. SHE WAS HELD IN PRISON AND PROBABLY WAS A VICTIM OF ABUSIVE TREATMENT. [REDACTED]

11. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THERE HAD BEEN INFREQUENT ALLEGATIONS MADE AGAINST THE 316TH IN THE LOCAL PRESS BY LEFTISTS AND LEFTIST ORGANIZATIONS. NONE OF THE ARTICLES CONTAINED ANY SPECIFIC ACCUSATIONS OR DETAILS, SIMPLY REFERENCES TO THE 316TH AS A

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* [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] *
* [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] *
* [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] *

[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]
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